

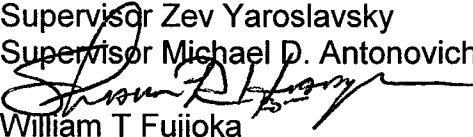


County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

July 15, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
From: 
William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATUS REPORT ON HR 6893 – FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008

On October 21, 2008, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report back in 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, on the feasibility of: 1) Seeking State authority to implement the provisions of HR 6893 for children and youth under Los Angeles County supervision; and 2) Implementing the provisions of HR 6893 outside of Los Angeles County's Title IV-E Child Welfare Capped Allocation Demonstration Project. This is the second report back to your Board.

As you are aware, HR 6893, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (now known as Public Law 110-351) was signed into law by President Bush on October 7, 2008. The bill addresses the needs of thousands of children in foster care and kinship care by promoting permanent families for them through relative guardianship and adoption. The bill re-authorizes the adoption incentives program and gives states the option of using federal Title IV-E funds to provide foster care, legal guardianship, and adoption assistance to children up to 21 years of age.

While some provisions in this bill are optional, some provisions are mandatory. To implement any of the bill's provisions, states must develop and submit State plan amendments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for its review and approval. Specifically, on November 22, 2008, the State certified to the

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

***Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only***

Each Supervisor
July 15, 2009
Page 2

HHS that State legislation is necessary to comply with requirements under Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The State requested a delay of the effective date for implementing the provisions of HR 6893 to January 1, 2010. Additionally, federal regulations on how states are to implement HR 6893 have not been issued.

On December 1, 2008, Assembly Member Jim Beall (Santa Clara) and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass introduced AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act which would also enact the State option to use Federal Title IV-E funds to extend Foster Care, the Kinship-Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP), and Adoption Assistance Program to eligible youth up to 21 years of age. However, on May 28, 2009, the Assembly Speaker's Office announced that due to the State's fiscal crisis, AB 12 and over 200 other bills will be held on the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File due to costs. As a result, no action will be taken on AB 12 until early 2010.

Separately, the Budget Conference Committee adopted budget trailer bill language to implement additional components required for California to comply with the mandatory provisions of HR 6893. The trailer bill language requires case plans for children in foster care ensure educational stability. The language codifies that public health nurses in the child welfare system perform specified duties. The California Department of Social Services indicates that these duties were previously available at the County's option, but are now a federal mandate.

We will report back on the status of AB 12 and the other associated bills in our Sacramento updates as soon as there is a change in the bills.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Victoria Evers at (213) 974-1415 or Brian Mahan at (213) 974-1318.

WTF:SRH:MS
BM:cvb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services